Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-26. (Canceled).

27. (Currently Amended) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates having substantially similar birefringent properties, where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 1:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

28. (Currently Amended) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates having substantially similar birefringent properties, where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 4:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

29. (Currently Amended) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates having substantially similar birefringent properties, where ~~a polarization angle between~~ an angle between polarization axes of two of the plates is substantially $n\frac{\pi}{2} \pm \arccos(-1/3)/4$, where n is an integer.

30. (Currently Amended) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates having substantially similar birefringent properties, where a first angle between polarization axes of a first adjacent pair of the plates is substantially $\left(n+\frac{1}{2}\right)\frac{\pi}{2}$, and a second angle between polarization axes of a second adjacent pair of the plates is substantially $n\frac{\pi}{2} \pm \arccos(-1/3)/4$, where n is an integer.

Claims 31-32. (Canceled).

33. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 27 where the order of the three plates is selected such that at least one retardance frequency vanishes in a first quadrant.

34. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 28 where the order of the three plates is selected such that at least one retardance frequency vanishes in a first quadrant.

35. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 27 where the thicknesses of the three plates are selected such that the plate of intermediate thickness is positioned between the remaining two plates.

36. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 28 where the thicknesses of the three plates are selected such that the plate of least thickness is positioned between the remaining two plates.

37. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 27 where each of the birefringent plates has an ordinary axis, each birefringent plate having a substantially different rotation angle of the respective ordinary axis.

38. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 28 where each of the birefringent plates has an ordinary axis, each birefringent plate having a substantially different rotation angle of the respective ordinary axis.

39. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 29 where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 1:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

40. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 30 where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 1:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

41. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 29 where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 4:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

42. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 30 where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 4:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

43. (Currently Amended) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates having substantially similar birefringent properties, where the respective thicknesses of the plates are 1.5mm, 1.125mm, and 3.375mm.

44. (Currently Amended) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates having substantially similar birefringent properties, where the total thicknesses of the plates is approximately 6mm.

45. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 44 where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 1:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

46. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 44 where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 4:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

47. (New) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates having substantially similar birefringent properties, where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 1:3:9 from the thinnest birefringent plate to the thickest birefringent plate.

48. (New) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates having substantially similar birefringent properties, where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 3:4:9 from the thinnest birefringent plate to the thickest birefringent plate.

49. (New) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates having substantially similar birefringent properties, where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 1:3:9 from the thinnest plate to the thickest plate, where a first angle between polarization axes of a first adjacent pair of the plates is substantially $\left(n+\frac{1}{2}\right)\frac{\pi}{2}$, and a second angle between polarization

axes of a second adjacent pair of the plates is substantially $n\frac{\pi}{2} \pm \arccos(-1/3)/4$, where n is an integer.

50. (New) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates having substantially similar birefringent properties, where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 3:4:9 from the thinnest plate to the thickest plate, where a first angle between polarization axes of a first adjacent pair of the plates is substantially $\left(n+\frac{1}{2}\right)\frac{\pi}{2}$, and a second angle between polarization axes of a second adjacent pair of the plates is substantially $n\frac{\pi}{2} \pm \arccos(-1/3)/4$, where n is an integer.